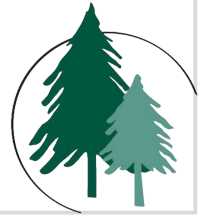


Professional Development

CEDAR CREST ACADEMY | FALL 2021



Hello Cedar Crest Parents,

We hope this finds you in good health and positive spirits. Last Friday was Professional Development (PD), and our Cedar Crest staff took the day to focus on new strategies and mindsets to strengthen their practices as educators and leaders.

Here at Cedar Crest, we value sharing our Professional Development with our parents as it creates community and gives you insight into how we want to develop our teachers and staff.

Over in Pre-Primary, our Directors kicked off PD by hosting two mini-workshops. In these sessions, we highlighted the importance of classroom zoning and the impact of strong teacher-to-teacher talk. Both topics redirected simple organization or communication strategies into ways for teachers to exemplify cooperation and collaboration and transform the classroom space to maximize student learning.

Afterward, our Pre-Primary teachers came together via Zoom for a guided workshop by Jocelyn Manzanarez, founder of Musically Minded. Jocelyn is a certified K-12 music educator in Washington state, and a Washington state S.T.A.R.S. certified trainer for childcare providers. During this workshop, teachers learned brain-based strategies and other tips and tricks to achieve optimal engagement not just at circle time but throughout the day. Jocelyn's vibrant energy and helpful tips also encouraged teachers and reignited their passion for working in education.

Meanwhile, in Elementary, the workshops consisted of a few major focus areas. For the first one, teachers completed a webinar on *How to Communicate with Parents and Goal Setting*. This session acts as an additional layer of support during the Parent-Teacher Conferences. It also benefits the teachers throughout the year as they continue to set goals for your children and encourage the partnership.

During the second workshop, teachers continued their book study on *Social Emotional Learning and The Brain*. They discussed the various strategies already implemented in the classrooms and came up with a few more that would be used school-wide and for individual students. Two of the strategies for school-wide use are, The Feelings Thermometer, and the 2x10 Method to make connections with students. Please see the attached copy of the Feelings Thermometer that was created by the Elementary program.

The 2x10 strategy is a simple way to ensure that a child builds a positive and trusting relationship with their teacher. In this method, the teacher will approach students who are struggling to either find their voice or need opportunities to have a verbal outlet. The teachers will then spend 2 minutes a day for 10 consecutive days with that child talking about anything the child wants to talk about, not school-related. This creation of a healthy relationship will allow for the students to approach the teachers when there is a conflict, issue, or if they just want to chat to process emotions.



The final Elementary workshop had a focus on *Differentiation*. During this time, the teachers continued to learn the difference between individualization and differentiation while also understanding that they could work together to best support their students. With the information gathered in this workshop, teachers are encouraged to consider various forms of learning within their classrooms and explore new, unique, fun, and interactive ways for students to learn their content.

As for our Directors, their training focused on Relationship-Centered Leadership, effective communication, and teacher development. These three topics center on strengthening the foundation at each campus through individualized communication and strong relationship-based leadership and care, with a focus on the growth and development of our teachers from educators to leaders.

Overall, we had an incredibly successful Professional Development this Fall of 2021. We are incredibly proud of our staff and look forward to future days where we commit to our community's education, growth, and transformation at Cedar Crest.